

AMENDED CLAIMS MARKED UP TO SHOW CHANGES

SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)
IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 30 NOVEMBER 2000
AND PETITION DECISION MAILED 17 SEPTEMBER 2002

CLAIMS

11. (Five Times Amended) [An] A disposable absorbent article, the article having at least one removable absorbent core component, a first waist region, a second waist region, and a crotch region positioned between the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article further comprising:
 - a backsheet joined to a fluid pervious topsheet, the backsheet comprising a web; and
 - an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core comprising absorbent core components,

wherein a multi-layered first absorbent core component is disposed in at least the crotch region and has an acquisition layer and an acquisition/distribution layer, and at least one removable second absorbent core component is removably disposed in the first waist region and is in fluid communication with the first absorbent core component, and

wherein the backsheet further comprises first access means for providing access to the removable second absorbent core component through the backsheet so that the removable second absorbent core component may be removed from the absorbent article through the backsheet without having to remove the absorbent article from a wearer, the first access means comprising a first discontinuity in the web, the first discontinuity being positioned in the first waist region, a first recloseable flap secured over the first discontinuity, and a first fastener for recloseably joining the first flap to the backsheet.
12. (Three Times Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein the acquisition and acquisition/distribution layers of the first absorbent core component comprise fibrous nonwoven materials, fibrous wet-laid web materials, open-celled polymeric foam materials, or combinations thereof.
17. (Three Times Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein the second absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials, fibrous wet-laid web materials, open-celled polymeric foam materials, absorbent gelling materials, or combinations thereof.
20. (Three Times Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17, wherein the second absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials and open-celled polymeric foam materials.
32. (Twice Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17, wherein the second absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials and absorbent gelling materials.

33. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein the absorbent core further comprises at least one removable third absorbent core component removably disposed in the second waist region and in fluid communication with the first absorbent core component[;] and the backsheet further comprises second access means for providing access to the removable third absorbent core component through the backsheet so that the removable third absorbent core component may be removed from the absorbent article through the backsheet without having to remove the absorbent article from the wearer, the second access means comprising a second discontinuity in the web, the second discontinuity being positioned in the second waist region, a second reclosable flap secured over the second discontinuity, and a second fastener for recloseably joining the second flap to the backsheet.
37. (Twice Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 33, wherein the third absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials, fibrous wet-laid web materials, open-celled polymeric foam materials, absorbent gelling materials, or combinations thereof.
38. (Twice Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 37, wherein the third absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials and open-celled polymeric foam materials.
39. (Twice Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 37, wherein the third absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials and absorbent gelling materials.
43. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein the second absorbent core component can be replaced by a replacement second core component having the same structure as the component which was removed.
44. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 33 wherein the third absorbent core component can be replaced by a replacement third core component having the same structure as the component which was removed.
82. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein the acquisition and acquisition/distribution layers of the first absorbent core component comprise fibrous nonwoven materials and open-celled polymeric foam materials.
83. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein the fibrous nonwoven materials of the acquisition and acquisition/distribution layers are polyester fiber materials, polyethylene fiber materials, polypropylene fiber materials, cotton fiber materials, cellulose fiber materials, chemically stiffened cellulose fiber materials, twisted cellulose fiber materials, curled cellulose fiber materials, eucalyptus fiber materials, or combinations thereof.

84. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 12, wherein the acquisition and acquisition/distribution layers of the first absorbent core component further comprise absorbent gelling materials.
85. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 11, wherein the first absorbent core component further comprises a storage/redistribution layer.
86. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 85, wherein the storage/redistribution layer of the first absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials, fibrous wet-laid web materials, open-celled polymeric foam materials, absorbent gelling materials, or combinations thereof.
87. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 86, wherein the storage/redistribution layer of the first absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials and open-celled polymeric foam materials.
88. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 86, wherein the storage/redistribution layer of the first absorbent core component comprises fibrous nonwoven materials and absorbent gelling materials.
89. (Amended) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 86, wherein the fibrous nonwoven materials of the storage/redistribution layer are polyester fiber materials, polyethylene fiber materials, polypropylene fiber materials, cotton fiber materials, cellulose fiber materials, chemically stiffened cellulose fiber materials, twisted cellulose fiber materials, curled cellulose fiber materials, eucalyptus fiber materials, or combinations thereof.